



\$950K grants benefit students, teachers and communities

October 11, 2019

Students and teachers across Northern New Mexico will benefit this year from more education opportunities thanks to two grants to regional education nonprofits totaling nearly \$800,000 from Los Alamos National Laboratory operator Triad National Security, LLC. In addition, Triad is supporting an innovative program to tackle substance abuse in the Española and Pojoaque Valleys with a \$151,500 grant to United Way of Northern New Mexico (UWNNM).

The education funding of \$599,600 to the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Foundation and \$200,000 to the Regional Development Corporation (RDC) was announced by Janet Napolitano, president of the University of California (UC), at a community event hosted by the Laboratory at the Hilton Buffalo Thunder hotel in Santa Fe Sept. 12.

UC is one of the partners that make up Triad, together with Texas A&M University System and Battelle Memorial Institute. Howie Morales, lieutenant governor of New Mexico, and Eleni Kounalakis, lieutenant governor of California and a UC regent, also spoke at the event.

“The University of California and our partners in Triad are honored to work closely with these outstanding regional organizations that are committed to boosting educational opportunities and economic growth across Northern New Mexico,” says Napolitano. “Institutions like the University of California and Los Alamos National Laboratory can, and should, play a critical role in supporting social mobility and propelling the local economy.”

“Education is fundamental to a thriving community, and the Laboratory is committed to inspiring a diverse STEM-focused talent pool in the region,” says Thom Mason, director of Los Alamos National Laboratory and president of Triad. “Triad’s partnerships with the LANL Foundation and the RDC will directly help the young people who will become the workforce of the future.”

Triad’s investment in the foundation will provide more needs-based scholarships for students pursuing two- and four-year degrees and trade and professional certifications, and will also support efforts to prepare and retain qualified teachers throughout the region. Some of the funding will also be used to jumpstart the creation of a Northern New Mexico STEM hub, increasing access to STEM opportunities for local K-12 students.

The grant to the nonprofit RDC will support its workforce development programs at six regional colleges and universities in Northern New Mexico, with the aim of building a robust pipeline of educated workers ready to take on high-demand jobs throughout the region.

Funding for collaborative substance abuse initiative

Triad's grant to UWNNM will support the Rio Arriba Collective Impact Initiative to End Substance Abuse and Violence, led in part by Roger Montoya, co-founder of Moving Arts Española, who was recently selected as a 2019 CNN Hero. The initiative facilitates collective action among a group of partners that include nonprofit service providers, community groups, education institutions, and state and local governments to address substance abuse issues in the Española and Pojoaque Valleys and broader physical and behavioral health issues such as violence and homelessness.

"Before Triad even began operating the Laboratory, the people of Rio Arriba County and the Pojoaque Valley made it clear to us that substance abuse is a significant, pressing threat to the wellness of their communities," says Mason, who announced the grant Sept. 24 at UWNNM's annual meeting and 2019/20 fundraising campaign kick-off at the Mision y Convento in Española. "Triad is grateful to have the ability to support this grassroots initiative. We are committed to the health and wellness of the people and the communities that surround the Laboratory."

The funds from Triad will support coordination among the organizations taking part, and allow them to build partnerships they work towards shared goals.

Triad's investments in the three nonprofits form part of its Community Commitment Plan approved by the National Nuclear Security Administration. The plan outlines the company's support for economic development, education and community giving in the region around the Laboratory.

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